

AIR

PBSUCCESS-RYBAT

HSG-A-732

~~SECRET~~

[]

Chief of Project, PBSUCCESS

Acting Chief of Station, Guatemala INFO: Chief, WHD

SYNCRAP Activities

Transmittal of "Fisherman" Letter

References: 1) GUAT 036, dated 28 January 1954
2) GUAT 011, dated 22 January 1954

1. In paragraph 4 of first reference mention was made of the receipt of a handwritten message signed "Fisherman" and dated 27 January 1954 containing information concerning the travels of CALLIGERIS.
2. Attached herewith is a true copy of another "Fisherman" note, dated 28 January 1954, sent to Identity 1 for delivery to Identity 3; these identities being explained in GUAT 037. This document first came to my attention on 13 February 1954 and is being submitted not only as further evidence of dangerous security practices but also because it contains information and impressions which may be of interest.
3. The pencil cross-outs are duplicates of those appearing on the original.
4. Humberto GONZALEZ Juarez is the private secretary of the Presidency and an influential member of the Partido Acción Revolucionaria (PAR).
5. According to information contained in his passport, Guillermo ESTRADA Rosa is a clerk of Guatemalan nationality who traveled extensively, visiting Belize several times, during 1953.
6. The files of this station reflect no information concerning Hector AGUILAR M., Rafael GARCIA H., or Lionel PONCEA (PONSEA).
7. The individual mentioned as R. is Identity 4 of GUAT 037.

Enclosure:
Letter signed "Fisherman"

[Earle N. Bannister]

16 February 1954

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

ENB/cmh

Distribution:
2-Line w/att
2-Wash w/att
1-Files w/att

PBSUCCESS-RYBAT

~~SECRET~~

2000

Jan. 28, 1954

from Teguc.:

Internal organization suffered very little - if at all - by recent arrests in Guate. As previously reported the organization is tightly knit, system of cells, where on membebr hardly ever knows more than two or three others, except at the highest echelon. We certainly feel sincerely the loss of Miguel, but there are "repuestos" right on the job already.

I have spent more than an hour with the Colonel the night of 26th, shortly before his departure for the South; all precautions were taken to keep this absolutely leak-proof, respective report written by myself in office and sealed in my presence; the four pages of the pad on which I wrote, and on which some of my writing "engraved itself" were torn off by me and left with R. for burning. I need not stress that there is a high price on our friend's head.... May I suggest eventual FBI protection for him, while in USA ?

I found him confident, clear-headed and full of determination; while cognizant of problems and dangers ahead, his courage and capacity for leadership must never be doubted.

~~As suggested by you,~~ I encouraged him to tell us what, or what more does he feel he needs to be successful; I mentioned that the internal needs were duly communicated and that they are being "thought about". I feel that I supplied the final degree of confidence needed by him; the personality of the Ambassador, his reputation and recent firm statements did the rest. He then confided to me his great wish to meet as per my yesterday's report.

We then discussed briefly their programme; I wanted to learn his views on such delicate subjects as Agrarian Reform, Sindicalization and Labor's gains. His one big motto will be "caution", gains cannot be taken away, but he will endeavour to have laws applied justly to all. He is well informed, it is aparent that he did lot of studying and thinking in the exile, I am amazed at his common sense, middle of the road views, this is no typical Latin American Dictator with a whip. Soberly he envisages difficulties of financial nature, when the truth shall be known how much damage has been actually done to the Fisco. USA has a sincere, admiring friend in him, and it is only because of the adverse publicity the State has been receiving for some time, that he did not seek you out at an earlier date.

To the solid Honduras and Salvador backing which I reported previously you can add now also Nicaragua and Panama; it is hoped that Santo Domingo will give help when needed. Full Alliance and close cooperation with Idigoras was sincerely sought and these efforts culminated by Idigoras' party and his principal men joining unreservedly the cause of the Colonel.

Unda Murillo and Davila Cordoba's arrest is due indirectly to the general's statement in Salvador to the effect, that Salazar, Coronado Lira and the rest of former prominent Idigoristas have not really "abandoned him" but made certain declarations to that effect to cover and protect him...;

JM B L O G

this in turn made authorities in Guate think that Murillo and Davila Cordoba must know something, must be implicated in something, hence the "orden de captura" It is evident that the Gvmt is blind to the actual facts, & the only person really involved was of course Miguel.

Martinez' statement to the Mexican Press, in which he clearly says that the Agrarian Dept. and also Arbenz are in the hands of communists, has just reached us yesterday via Salvador; it shows that my summing up of his departure was correct.

Col. Miguel Mendoza is not, and was not the military chief inside; his arrest - if confirmed - shows only further how bewildered the Gvmt is.

An enclosing brief extract of contract recently signed between H. Gonzalez Juarez and a Mexican mahogany operator; this represents one of the "big steals" and it would be interesting to know if some of the money to be paid through New York Banks will not be used as contribution to communist and communist front organizations for red propaganda. The letter which accompanied the contract mentions "Willy" - not much imagination needed there to know which Willy it is; it is obvious that he is also sharing and on the receiving end.

Let me know somehow to Belize via [] - if suitable - if you want me to follow payments in Belize through Belize banks; this would be comparatively easy for me.

On Jan 22nd a special plane from Guate landed in Belize; it was first said that it brought Arbenz and his wife, whereupon I saw [] and suggested to him to report it - if he finds it to be correct - urgently to the State and you. He promised to look into things, and have not seen him again. However, before my departure for here, I have firmly established that it was Eduardo Weimann and his wife, plane piloted by Hurst - and that they inspected the 90 foot yacht, made for a rich English businessman, who died last year. The vessel is an ocean going yacht, provided with two Diesels, and I discovered further that it was brought some two months ago to Punta Gorda, from where it steamed out to meet a party from Barrios; it may be that A. was there also, but it is certain that Osequeda was one of the party. It was arranged to see the yacht in performance. The price then asked was \$ 95.000, and I understand that it was now reduced to \$ 65.000 as a last offer to Weimann. I do not know if the deal was closed. If further interested in this matter let me know via [] in Belize. Our friends here showed considerable interest in this development and considered it as merely an additional means to "escape" ...

Headquarters: these people are no ordinary, usual type of conspirators as we see them in Latin America; they will not be running to assault with machetes in their hands I am very impressed; they are divided in suitable departments, which in turn take care of special assignments, such as propaganda, press, foreign relations, intelligence, finances, supplies, storage and shipments of needed elements, planning, future Govmnt programme, etc, etc. All opposition elements, as reported previously are gathered here and work in harmony; there is no doubt of their respect for and loyalty to the Colonel, and it is also evident to me that he is the Boss.

PUNTOS PRINCIPALES

del contrato firmado el 21 de Enero de 1954 en la Ciudad de Guatemala entre Humberto Gonzalez Juarez y Hector Aguilar Marufo, este ultimo ciudadano mexicano, originario de Chetumal, y mantiene oficina y negocios en Belize, B.H.

Es contrato de compra-venta de caoba y cedro que el sr.H.G.J. tiene en los Bosques Nacionales de Peten, segun contrato con el Gobierno de Guatemala. H. Gonzalez J. vende a Aguilar caoba y cedro que se encuentre en condiciones de arastrar en la Zona No. 3 de los Bosques Nacionales de Peten. Se pagara en lotes de 50.000 pies a cruzar en frontera de Guatemala, en dinero efectivo por cheques de \$ norteamericanos, girados sobre bancos en Nueva York. el precio convenido es de \$ 120 por millar pies de caoba y \$ 80.- por cedro.

H.G.J. se compromete y Aguilar acepta que H. Gonzalez Juarez cortara con su propio equipo de tractores y personal tecnico la suma de mil arboles particulares, que se encuentran el las Zonas I y III de los Bosques Nacionales de Peten, arreglo que se determinara por separado; se consta que la explotacion de los mil arboles se haria este ano.

El presente contrato deja sin ningun efecto el contrato celebrado en la ciudad de Guatemala el dia 16 de Enero de 1954, que fue firmado por las personas siguientes: Humberto Gonzalez Juarez, Hector Aguilar M., Antonio Figueroa y Orlando Apuche, del cual dieran fe los senores Guillermo Estrada Rosa y Jose Cesar Garcia Porras.

No habiendo otra coas que hacer constar se firma el presenta contrato ratificando y dando fe de que cada una de las clausulas estan de conformidad.

Humberto Gonzalez Juarez
(firmado)

Guillermo Estrada a Rosa
(firmado)

Hector Aguilar M.
(firmo en Belice)

Rafael Garcia H.
(firmo en Belice)

Nota en carta privada:

..... 2 copias se las mande a Humberto o a Willy, siempre a cargo de la Secretaria de la Presidencia.... yo llego martes el 26.....

lo saluda su Cuate Lionel

(Esta carta de Lionel Fonseca a Rafael Garcia H.)

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY: 7

Action: my previous estimates regarding the time are correct; same reasons for an early action as existed then, exist now.

Regards to all and "au revoir" in Guate.

/s/ Fisherman

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY:

[]